GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6542
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
POWERS OF ANTI-ADULTERATION CELL
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and sections under which the Anti-Adulteration Cell has been empowered to conduct raids;

(b) whether this cell has been created to conduct raids and inspection of Depots, Dealers, distributors and Oil Selection Boards against the respective companies only;

(c) if so, whether the officers have to record their movement to maintain transparency and to avoid the legal complaints; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b) : The Anti Adulteration Cell is empowered to conduct raids under the following Control Orders issued by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in exercise of powers vested under the Essential Commodities Act :

(i) Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order, 2000

(ii) Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order, 2000

(iii) Petroleum Products (Maintenance of Production, Storage and Supply) Order, 1999

(iv) Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of malpractices) Order, 1998

(v) Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993

(vi) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000

(vii) Lubricating Oils and Greases (Processing, Supply and Distribution Regulation) Order, 1987

The powers include search and seizure, inspection of vehicles, places and premises being made use of or suspected to be made use of in the business of (1) Naphtha (2) Solvent Raffinate and Slop (3) Motor Spirit (MS)/High Speed Diesel(HSD) (4) Kerosene (5) LP((6) Lubricating Oils and Greases (7) Crude Oil and Petroleum products, with respect to which there is reason to believe that the provisions of above mentioned control orders have been/are being or are about to be contravened.

(c) & (d) : The investigating Officers of the Anti Adulteration Cell have to keep the Director General or Regional Directors apprised of their movement. However, to avoid possible leakage of information and to ensure surprise element in the inspection, formal recording of movement is not insisted upon. The investigating officers are empowered under the above mentioned control orders to act on their own. Therefore, question of illegality does not arise.